

*Site  
Summary*

**Cornell-Dubilier Electronics  
South Plainfield/Middlesex County/New Jersey**

**Background:**

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site (Site) is located in a mixed industrial/residential/commercial area of South Plainfield, New Jersey and is bounded on the east by the Bound Brook. The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Company (CDE) operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components, including capacitors. It is reported that Cornell-Dubilier deposited polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto Site soils. The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by 15 businesses. It is anticipated that this Site will be proposed for the NPL in August of 1997.

PCBs have been detected on-site in surface soils and in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has reviewed the available sampling data and concluded that PCBs are present at levels of public health concern at the Site and chronic exposure to PCBs in surface soil presents a public health concern to on-site workers and trespassers.

Preliminary results of wipe samples collected from surfaces within the interiors of on-site buildings indicate the presence of PCBs at concentrations in excess of the TSCA Spill Cleanup Policy. PCBs in the building interiors pose a potential long-term health risk to exposed workers. The source of PCB contamination in building interiors is unknown, it is suspected that it may be the result of spills which occurred during CDEs manufacturing operations.

**Issue:**

PCBs present in waters and sediments of the Bound Brook may enter the food chain and bioaccumulate. This is of particular concern because water bodies downstream of the Site are utilized as freshwater fisheries. Presently there is no data indicating contamination of downstream fisheries, however, the potential for human health risk from consumption of contaminated fish can not be ruled out at this time.

If the source of contamination within the on-site building is past spills to building interiors, EPA may not have the authority to take action under to CERCLA. In addition, spills that occurred before 1978 are not regulated under TSCA, unless the current concentration exceeds 50 ppm. The results of analysis of wipe samples are reported in micrograms per 100 square centimeters and are not equatable to ppm.

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